

STAT

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United States Senat

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August 3, 1981

Dear Friend:

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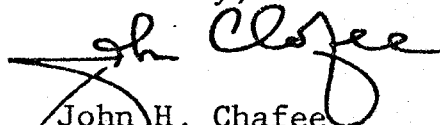
On May 21, 1981, I joined Chairman Barry Goldwater of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to introduce the Intelligence Reform Act of 1981 (S. 1273).

The purpose of this legislation is to provide relief to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and to other appropriate components of the Intelligence Community from the burden of responding to certain types of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. At the same time, it allows U.S. citizens and permanent resident aliens to request information on themselves.

Currently, the CIA and other intelligence agencies are subject to the FOIA in that they must respond to requests and justify decisions to withhold information. While many records are statutorily protected from mandatory disclosure, the agencies still must search and review records and justify their withholding. Such justification may involve detailed affidavits and in camera judicial review of agency submissions and selected records. S. 1273 would relieve the intelligence agencies from these procedural burdens as well as provide for substantive protection of the records themselves.

Just last week, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, of which I am a member, conducted hearings on my bill. Because of your interest in intelligence matters, I have taken the liberty of enclosing my statement relating to this issue.

Sincerely,



John H. Chafee
United States Senator

Enclosure